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1097 BLAIR STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111-4702

Miss Du... Crowned Saturday night
--See Page 9

District positions filled for superintendent, teachers
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Murder suspect arrested 20 years after incident
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The Uintah Basin Standard

79th Year * No. 33 | Wednesday, August 19, 1992 * Roosevelt, Utah | 16 Pages * 50 Cents

VANDALISM HURTS--City officials point out that acts of vandalism such as this destruction at the Constitution Park restrooms cost everyone. The city budget will have to cover repairs, and the facility will be closed until repairs are made. Even more serious damage occurred at the Roosevelt City water wells in Hayden; the wells were completely shut down for repairs Monday. Citizens can do a great deal to help alleviate such senseless acts, Chief Gurr reminded us, by reporting anything unusual or suspicious, and by being alert to surroundings.

Resident awareness needed

Vandals knock out city wells, sinks at C. Park

By Karla Cox

Roosevelt City residents, along with others on the city water system, were lucky to have water Monday morning, after vandals destroyed equipment on all five wells at the Hayden site.

In addition, extensive damage at Constitution Park in Roosevelt--over $2,000 damage to public property--has caused the closure of the public restrooms at the park.

Officers are seeking information that will lead to the arrest of perpetrators of both incidents of vandalism; in addition, RPD Chief Cecil Gurr stated, "We would really appreciate some help," through public awareness and parental controls.

Electronic signals attached to the city water wells east of Neola sent an alarm at about 4 a.m. Monday morning, alerting officials to a problem at the site. Officials found that some type of heavy instrument had been used to knock meters and electrical loops off all five wells; the damage caused fires that destroyed virtually all of the electrical wiring on the wells, stated Roosevelt Mayor Leonard Ferguson.

Vandals also smashed the fans that cool the pump houses, along with destroying the doorknobs on all the structures, Ferguson said. All five wells were shut down until about 9 a.m., when repairs were completed on one well.

The remaining wells should be repaired soon, he added, but, "On hot days like we've experienced recently, four to five million gallons of water are being used per day. That's an awful lot of water. We serve Roosevelt, part of Neola and Ballard, west of Roosevelt...There are a lot of people on the system," he pointed out, along with public entities that must have constant water supply for operation. "It's crucial to keep our water supply intact."

Ferguson indicated that a new system may have to be installed, in addition to involving someone close to the wells, to protect the water supply. The costs from such incidents are shared by everyone, he and Chief Gurr maintain.

Roosevelt City officers are being assisted by Uintah County and BIA officials in the investigation on the water wells. A reward will be offered for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the sabotage. Cost estimates on the damage were not yet certain.

Vandalism at the Constitution Park restrooms took place during the weekend, Chief Gurr indicated, with three sinks in the women's restroom knocked from the wall and smashed. Concession stands at the ball park also sustained damages.

Due to the recent high incidence of criminal mischief, often the activity of unsupervised young people, city curfews will be strictly enforced by police officers, Chief Gurr declared. Anyone 15 years and under must be off the streets by 10:30 p.m.; 16-17 year olds are violating curfew after 12:30 a.m. A tribal curfew of 11 p.m. exists for all tribal members.

A reward is also being offered for conclusive information on the damages at the park. In addition, because much criminal mischief is carried out by youth, sometimes in the company of adults, Chief Gurr strongly urged all parents to "Keep an eye on your kids. Make sure they are in by the curfew, and that they stay in. Parents are responsible for damages caused by their children," he added, up to $1,000. Damages beyond that amount are the responsibility of the juvenile offender.

Large Fines

Sentences handed down in Basin Roundup drug cases

By Aldon Rachele

Many felony pleas have been entered and convictions acquired in cases involving Duchesne County individuals arrested as a part of Operation Basin Roundup last April. In most cases defendants are receiving Duchesne County jail terms and fines as high as $1500.

The Uintah Basin Roundup included over 100 charges against over 70 adults and juveniles. Involved in the operation were Duchesne County Sheriff Department, Roosevelt City Police as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Uintah County law enforcement and the FBI.

Duchesne County Attorney, Herb Gillespie, released the status of Duchesne County residents arrests in the courts as follows:

Dale Semple pleaded guilty to two second degree and third degree counts of distributing a controlled substance-marijuana and dealer possessing marijuana without affixing stamps, third degree felony. He was sentenced to 1-15 years at the Utah State Prison on three counts and 0-5 years on a fourth count. He was fined $1000 on each of the three counts and $500 on the other count. He had three other counts of distribution of a controlled substance-marijuana, second degree felonies and dealer possession without affixing stamps-marijuana, third degree felony, dismissed per plea negotiations. He was also ordered to pay restitution of $2000. Semple has to pay his fines plus restitution.

Carol Lankford pleaded guilty to a count of distribution of a controlled substance-marijuana, third degree felony. She was given a sentence of 0-5 years in the Utah State Prison, fined $1000, prison suspended, probation 18 months and 30 days in the Duchesne County Jail. One count of distribution of a controlled substance-marijuana was dismissed per plea negotiations.

Willie Bates pleaded guilty to distribution of a controlled substance-marijuana, third degree felony. He was sentenced to 0-5 years in the Utah State Prison, fined $1000, prison suspended, given 18 months probation, 30 days in the Duchesne County Jail.

Johnny L. Diaz had counts of distribution of a controlled substance, aiding and abetting, third degree felony, dismissed due to jurisdiction.

Raymond Valdez is charged with distribution of a controlled substance, aiding and abetting, second degree felony and is pending trial.

Carl Benson was given a sentence of 1-15 years in the Utah State Prison, fined $1500, given 24 months probation, suspended state prison, sentenced to 40 days in Duchesne

Continued on page 3

Local citizen arrested for burglary and theft

By Mindy Duncan

The alleged offender in a recent multi-robbery incident has been located and arrested.

According to Roosevelt Police Chief Cecil Gurr, 21-year old Billy Vaughan was located and arrested on Tuesday, August 11, in connection with robbery and theft incidents in the Roosevelt area.

Vaughan is suspected of breaking into several homes and stealing various household items, stated Chief Gurr.

Vaughan was located Tuesday night in the gulch east of Roosevelt. Apparently Vaughan had been living in the gulch for quite some time before police located him. He was found living in a weed patch with the stolen items, Gurr said.

Vaughan has been charged for residential burglary and theft, amounting to a third degree felony and class B misdemeanor, and faces arraignment in circuit court.

Vaughan was located and arrested by RPD Officer Steve Hooley.

Resident uninjured in State Street accident

By Mindy Duncan

A local young man walked away unscathed from an accident last Wednesday in Roosevelt.

Utah Highway Patrol Officer Carlos Reed responded to the one-car accident that occurred on State Street early last Wednesday morning, and involved 25-year old Brian C. Hill, Roosevelt.

Hill, the only victim in the single vehicle incident, rolled his 1973, newly painted, 3/4 ton pickup on about 1500 South in Roosevelt, stated Reed. The accident occurred around 7:45 a.m., when Hill's vehicle veered off the right side of the road.

While trying to regain control of the vehicle, Hill over-corrected the truck, resulting in a complete rolling rotation of the truck, reported Reed. Hill was reportedly traveling about 35 miles per hour when the accident occurred.

Hill left the scene with no injuries. He was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident, concluded Reed.

Uintah County challenges

Gardner filing suit against BIA, sheriff

By Karla Cox

A lawsuit filed in Ute Indian Tribal Court recently, charges the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Uintah County Sheriff's Department, the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, and specific law enforcement officers with civil rights violations.

Plaintiff Edson Gardner, a mixed-blood (an individual with Ute blood but not recognized as Indian by the Ute Tribe) who resides in Whiterocks, along with fellow plaintiff Lynda Kozlowicz, claim Gardner's civil rights were violated when he was arrested by BIA police officers, incarcerated in Fort Duchesne, then transferred by county deputies to the Uintah County Jail in Vernal.

Gardner claims officers had no right to remove him from the reservation; he further claims that he was arrested on false charges, and that all were misdemeanors, which would not require extradition, he says. He has filed a $36,000 lawsuit in tribal court, before Judge Tahbone.

The county defendants--Uintah County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff's Department Officer Doreen Durzuweit--are challenging the authority of the Ute Tribal Court over "a political subdivision of the State of Utah and its agents."

Attorney for the county defendants, Jesse C. Trentadue, SLC, has filed for a hearing to have the case dismissed from tribal court. Sheriff Lloyd Meacham deferred to Trentadue to speak for the case, and had no comment on the jurisdictional issue. Trentadue stated that BIA officers arrested Gardner and turned him over to county officials, in effect treating him as a non-Indian.

Gardner is not enrolled as a Ute Tribal member, and therefore not recognized by the tribe as an Indian. BIA officers are mandated to respond and arrest on crimes or alleged crimes by anyone within their jurisdiction, and are authorized through cross-deputization to arrest non-Indians as well as Indians, if state-authorized law enforcement officers are not at the scene, Trentadue says.

Gardner claims that BIA should handle all incidents that involve anyone who fits the federal definition of an Indian: an individual with proof of ancestry through a federally-recognized tribe.

Trentadue is also representing Duchesne County, being sued by Leroy Toponotes, Myton, for water bill charges. Toponotes accuses the county of unfair water rates, and is seeking a reduction in his water bill, actually administered through Duchesne City Corporation, not Duchesne County. A motion to dismiss has been submitted to Judge Tah-bone on this case as well, Trentadue stated.

County pays BLM after federal goof

By Karla Cox

Duchesne County will be paying $80,000 to the Bureau of Land Management over the next three years, in spite of their extreme budget crunch, because the government made a mistake five years ago.

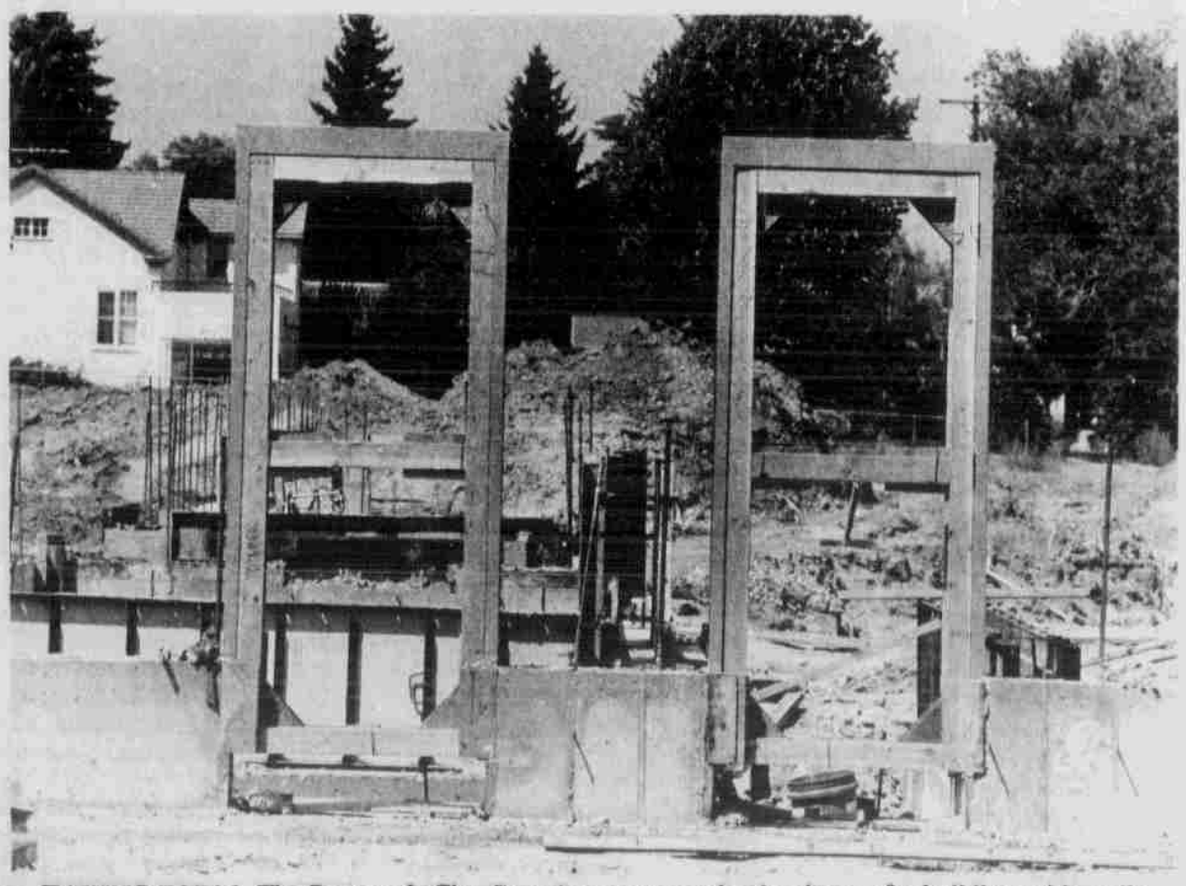
That mistake, explains County Clerk Deron Wilkerson, came as a check for $83,771.74 from the BLM five years ago. Though the county frequently receives federal funds through various programs (PILT, school trust funds, etc.), no one understood what this check was for, Wilkerson said.

So County Auditor Diane Freston checked into the situation, in an effort to determine the reason for the seeming gift from heaven. Finally, after repeated assurances from the BLM that the money belonged to the county and they were free to include it in their general funds, county officials did just that.

In January of this year, says Auditor Freston, the county received word that the payment was a bureaucratic mistake; a federal audit disclosed an accounting error in Washington, and auditors found that the money should never have gone to BLM in the first place, and not to Duchesne County either.

After considerable effort by county commissioners to escape the re-payment (because it was not their mistake but a bureaucratic error), BLM agreed to accept repayment in three annual installments. The county will still be required to pay the full amount, but no interest will be charged. Freston says the first payment, $27,923.91, was made in July.

"This came at a horrible time," Wilkerson declares, when the county is already dealing with paybacks to oil and gas companies, as a result of inaccurate taxing by the State Tax Commission. "It's awfully tough when you have to pay for government's mistakes."



TAKING FORM--The Roosevelt City Complex starts to take the shape of a building with walls and windows being added in the last few weeks. Construction employees are also doing basement work as well.